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SELECTED.

PARTY OF CRUSOES ON A DESERT ISLAND.

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Their last improvement was to manufacture a sort of wooden trencher for themselves, when they ate comparatively a style of superior comfort. In the up, they sometimes put elephant skin, which had the appearance of tripe, but in taste and substance it is described as of a more "leathery nature." After dinner, some of them went again to hunt for grub, some remaining at home, the swiftest runners being chosen to hunt the seal. At "tea time," or dusk, they returned, and partook of a mess composed of penguins' eggs boiled in water. Now and then they killed the albatross, which is rather a strong bird, and roasted it; but as the young ones were highly esteemed, and as the mariners daily began to lose their hope of being delivered, they were afraid to kill the old birds lest they could quit the island, and in this fear they permitted them to live as "stand-by's." For the same reason they spared the penguins which supplied them plentifully with eggs. The young seals were considered the greatest luxury, but they, as well as the old ones, were but too scarce, and their skins were in high request for clothes; for, at the end of a few months, from their mode of life, their clothes gave way, and indeed, the climate was so cold and wet that they were not fit to withstand the inclemency of the weather. The men set to work and made themselves clothes of the seal-skin, some using the hair inwards. They made a needle out of a nail. For shoes they made themselves a sort of socks or buskins of the same material, and they constructed various kinds of caps, which, as their beards were pretty long, by no means tended to improve their physiognomy.

We now turn to the history of the party of eight men who had gone ashore on the first island in the group, and from which they expected to be taken in the course of a week. During the week for which they possessed a sufficiency of provisions, they pursued the occupation of hunting the seals on the low sandy shores and inlets, and gathered a large quantity of the skins of these animals to carry with them on their return. At the end of the week, however, the smack did not make its appearance, which perplexed them not a little, but their distress may be conceived when they found portions of the wreck driven ashore by the waves, giving too certain evidence of the destruction of their vessel, and, as they feared, of the loss of their comrades. For six weeks they continued to watch the horizon, with a lingering hope that a sail would present itself to their anxious gaze, but nothing of the kind appeared, and the party then removed to another quarter of the island more productive of animals for subsistence. At the spot selected, the eight men staid during the winter, living on seals and sea-elephants, which they also killed by means of the blubber. When winter had passed away, provisions were found to be scarce, and there was a necessity for seeking new quarters. As the small boat was left to them, they proposed to sail to the island, lying at the distance of ten miles, where the smack had been

wrecked, and putting this design in execution, they landed, as it happened, close by the spot where their wrecked shipmates had built their house, and there they met, to the great joy of both parties. The fishing-party added to the comforts of the establishment, by bringing with them their kettle, frying-pan, and some other implements which were highly acceptable. There was now a more numerous party to be provided for on the island, and consequently additional exertions were necessary for procuring food. Hunting the seal, the sea-elephant, and various birds, was kept up at all times when the weather permitted; and when storms of rain, snow, and wind, swept across the island, and rendered it impossible for them to move out with safety, they remained shut up in their rude dwelling, in which their only mental solacement consisted in reading a Bible that had been fortunately saved among the materials of the wreck. Influenced by pious and rational sentiments, they formed a peaceful and orderly community, such as is seldom witnessed in similar cases of extreme personal inconvenience and privation. During their sojourn on the island there were no parties amongst them; no quarrelling, and none assumed command, but obedience of the best kind existed—namely, that produced by a conviction of the utility and propriety of the thing proposed, and a mutual desire to be serviceable. They all gave their utmost exertions to the execution of whatever was suggested by the most experienced or received the sanction of the majority.

After they had been together for about three weeks, and the prospect of deliverance from the dreary solitude getting every day more remote, it was proposed to construct a vessel with the timber of the wreck, and the materials of which the house was built. There were the remains of a hut built on the other island by some Americans who visited it some years before, when seals were more plentiful. With these, and what had been saved from the wreck, the carpenter reported that a vessel might be built, and they set to work on that object immediately. The sails were to be made of seal-skins sewed together, and a party, consisting of eleven, went to the first island, for the purpose of collecting and preparing them, and digging up the timber which had been used for the house. The collection and preparation of the skins took three weeks, and in a week more they collected all the timber for the building of the vessel. From the state of their provisions, it was found convenient that five of their number should return and stay at the other island, as there were not provisions sufficient for the subsistence of all at the island where the house was built. This party, therefore, having received a proportionate share of the utensils, namely, one kettle and the bottom of an old one, which was used as a frying-pan, they set off. Those who remained, in order that they might apply the timber used in constructing the old house to the building of the vessel, set to work to build a new habitation, which they formed chiefly of stones and turf.

This house appears to have been an improvement on the first, inasmuch as it had the luxury of three chimnies, which however, either would not draw, or were in-

sufficient, as the inmates were obliged to cut a hole in the gable end to let out the smoke. At this time they used the elephants' bones, with the blubber, as fuel, the fumes from which were by no means agreeable. Having finished this, they shifted their things into it, tore down the first, and then cleared the place where it stood, for the purpose of building the vessel upon it. They laid the keel, made from the topmast of the wreck, to erect a vessel whose keel should be twenty-nine feet, and built like a lugger, and of about four feet and a half high. It was calculated that she would be about twelve tons burden. They worked at it with assiduity, animated with the hope of delivering themselves. Their history of their various expedients to supply the place of regular tools and materials, though unintelligible to the general reader, would be highly interesting to nautical men. At the end of five months they had completed her with her seal-skin sails, and they set off to the other Island to fetch the other five men, that they might assist in the launch.

Nearly two years had passed since they were wrecked—a time which, as marked by their privations and anxieties, appeared as long as their lives. The five men who were on this first island were dispersed in search of food, and the larger party were obliged to go in pursuit of them. On the next day after their arrival, a gale sprang up, and their boat was driven about seventy yards from where she was made fast, and her stern knocked to pieces. This was a fearful disaster, which threw the party into dismay, yet out of evil, good sometimes comes. The day being fine, an old man, one of the sailors, was sent to a mountainous point to try if he could discover their comrades, and he had not been long gone ere he returned in a bewildered breathless state. When able to speak, he informed them that he had seen a vessel standing in towards the shore. This none of them would believe, and all said it must be a bird sitting on the water, an object which had often deceived their hopes. The man, however, was convinced that he was not mistaken, and asked who would go with him to see the vessel, when one offered to go with him, and ascertain the fact; and a tinder box was given to them, that they might, if it were true, make a fire to show those on board that there were human beings on the island. To their indescribable joy, these two men, on getting to the place where she was first discovered, saw a schooner standing along shore, and, from the carcass of a sea-elephant, just killed, and other traces, perceived that the crew must have been on shore. They then sought for and killed one of these animals, and with its blubber they soon made a fire on the promontory, that evidently caught the attention of the schooner, as a boat was seen to proceed from her towards the shore. The men ran down eagerly to meet her, but when the boat got near the shore, the crew evidently hesitated, on seeing the two men, whose appearance must certainly have been of a dubious nature. They were naked, with the exception of their rough brown fur jackets, as they had thrown off their skin trousers, which were exceedingly thick and heavy, for the convenience of running. They, however, hailed the crew, in a manner which

proved them to be civilized beings, and they were taken on board. The vessel turned out to be an American schooner, which had come for the purpose of sealing and trading in those seas. The captain received them kindly, and gave them shirts and trousers. It was sunset when they were taken on board, and the next day the captain and the remaining party were fetched. They proceeded in search of the other party, who described the vessel with a degree of joy equal to that of the first man who saw it, and on the boat approaching the shore, hailed it with three cheers, which were returned by their comrades on board. Those on shore were so overjoyed, that they did not wait for her coming to the shore, but rushed into the water to haul her up. They were all taken on board. They assisted the schooner in loading, and after taking all their things on board, she sailed for her destination, the Isle of France.

Although thus rescued from a desert island, the misfortunes of the party were not terminated. On the way to the Isle of France, the mate of the smack had a disagreement with the American captain, and he and his companions, three excepted, were at their own desire put ashore on the island of St. Paul, where there are plenty of wild pigs and provisions such as the mariners had been lately used to, and which island is in the track of the vessels trading in the direction of the Mauritius. Here they intended to wait till picked up by a vessel in passing, of which they had no apprehensions. Of their fate no further account is given, though there is little doubt that they soon after reached England by some trading vessel. The three men that preferred going on with the American schooner, were landed at the Isle of France, whence they found their way to the Cape of Good Hope, and from that they returned to London in the Lord Exmouth, in a most destitute condition, but in good health, notwithstanding the straits and miseries they had undergone.

We have received several numbers of the Sailor's Magazine for 1840. It is published in New York, and besides giving an account of the efforts making to improve that class of men to which its pages are devoted, it contains much interesting miscellaneous intelligence, from which we extract largely. The seamen of this port have now been without a chaplain for upwards of two years. It is to be hoped that the Seamen's Friend Society will supply Mr. Deill's place shortly, as there are few stations where access can be had to sailors more readily or in greater numbers than this.

NAVY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following abstract of the United States navy is collected from the navy Register for the present year. There are 12 ships of the line, carrying from 74 to 120 guns, including one razed to 54 guns, 5 of the number being in commission, 4 in ordinary, and 4 on the stocks. Of frigates, there are 16, carrying 44 guns, except two of the second class, which carry 36 guns; of these six are in commission, four in ordinary, and six on the stocks. Of sloops of war, there are 21,